



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**UKIAH CITY COUNCIL AFFIRMS CALL FOR OUTSIDE, INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION OF
APRIL 1 POLICE INCIDENT**

Ukiah, CA. April 6, 2021. — The Ukiah City Council just concluded a Special Meeting that was called to discuss the police use-of-force incident that occurred on April 1st and the City's response. The Council issued the following statement:

"We share the community's concern with the force that was used by police on April 1st to detain a local resident. We have directed the City Attorney's office to hire an outside, independent investigator to examine this incident and evaluate the actions taken by Ukiah police officers. It is important that we fully understand what happened in order to determine what next steps should be taken by the City.

"In the meantime, we believe this incident demonstrates the critical gaps that exist in the community regarding mental health and addiction resources. Despite the fact that the City of Ukiah does not receive funding for or have jurisdiction over mental health or addiction support services, our Police Department is called upon to respond to crisis situations involving these issues. We believe there needs to be community-wide solutions for addressing these challenges so that police engagement can be avoided where possible. Citizens countywide overwhelmingly passed Measure B specifically to improve the County's mental health programs and facilities — we look forward to collaborating with the County to utilize Measure B funds to directly support first responders throughout our county. We acknowledge the attention on this challenge and will be pushing for more meaningful and expedited solutions.

"Our desire to seek better mental health resources in no way undermines our commitment to a full, fair and independent investigation of the police conduct on April 1st. We are committed to accountability and transparency, including a review of the procedures that are in place for our police department, as we move through the next steps with that investigation."

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